

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-20 PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 EB-04 FEA-01

INT-05 IO-04 DRC-01 SSO-00 /065 W

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P 121307Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO USIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1568

AMEBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0832

USIAC

FOR DIRECTOR KEOGH

KUWAIT FOR PAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: : DIRECTOR KEOGH'S VISIT TO BAHRAIN

REF: : MANAMA 819

1. IN CONNECTION WITH DIRECTOR KEOGH'S PENDING VISIT I SHOULD FLAG GOB'S CONCERN ABOUT DETERIORATION OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, PARTICULARLY WHAT BAHRAIN LEADERS SEE AS TENDENCY U.S. PRESS TO DISTORT SERIOUS AND COMPLICATED ENERGY ISSUE INTO CONFRONTATION BETWEEN U.S. AND "ARAB OIL STATES."

2. IN LAST WEEK FOUR GOB MINISTERS HAVE RAISED THIS PROBLEM WITH ME. IN ALL CASES THEIR BASIC POSITION IS THAT THE WORLD ENERGY SITUATION AND RESULTANT
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FINANCIAL PROBLEMS ARE OF A SERIOUSNESS REQUIRING

CALM DIALOGUE AMONG PARTIES CONCERNED AND PROMPT ACTION IN RECYCLING SURPLUS PETRODOLLARS. INDIVIDUAL REACTIONS, OF COURSE, VARY BY TEMPERAMENT OF MINISTER CONCERNED. DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI, WHO HANDLES BAHRAIN'S OIL AFFAIRS AND IS CLOSE TO YAMANI, HARPS ON THE THEME THAT "U.S. IS THREATENING" THE ARABS AND THAT THIS IS INAPPROPRIATE AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE POSTURE FOR GREAT POWER TO TAKE ON COMPLICATED ENERGY ISSUE. FOREIGN MINISTER, JUST RETURNED FROM UNGA WHERE BY CHANCE HE MADE FIRST SPEECH BY PRODUCING COUNTRY DELEGATION AFTER ADDRESSES BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY, CHARACTERISTICALLY TAKES CALMER APPROACH. HE LAMENTS THAT WHILE "NO REASONABLE MAN COULD TAKE EXCEPTION" TO PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S REMARKS BEFORE UNGA, U.S. PRESS IS WELL ON THE WAY TO CREATING U.S.-ARAB CONFRONTATION OVER OIL WHERE NONE SHOULD EXIST. HE ADDS THAT ARAB PRESS OBVIOUSLY WILL RELISH OPPORTUNITY TO RISE TO THIS CHALLENGE.

3. WOULD LIKE TO ALERT DIRECTOR KEOGH THAT BAHRAINI COMMENT ON THIS PROBLEM FOCUSES ON OCTOBER 7 ISSUE INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF NEWSWEEK, WHICH UNHAPPILY USES PHOTOGRAPH OF AMIR OF BAHRAIN TO SYMBOLIZE OIL RICH ARABS IN LEAD ARTICLE. WHILE SOME GOB FEATHERS ARE RUFFLED BY WHAT MINISTER OF STATE FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS HAS DESCRIBED TO ME AS "FRIVOLOUS AND GRATUITIOUS INSULT TO CHIEF OF STATE", GENERAL GOB REACTION IS FORTUNATELY AND PREDICTABLY FAIRLY SOPHISTICATED. FOREIGN MINISTER TELLS ME, FOR INSTANCE, THAT PAGE ON WHICH AMIR'S PHOTOGRAPH APPEARS, WAS LEAST OBJECTIONAL BE PART OF NEWSWEEK'S ARTICLE DEALING WITH MIDDLE EAST AND OIL. FOREIGN MINISTER ADDS HE TOLD AMIR NEWSWEEK USED SHAIKH ISA'S PHOTOGRAPH BECAUSE HE WAS "MOST DISTINGUISHED-LOOKING OIL SHAIKH".
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